



Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2023, No. 8

August 2023

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I Just Got My Tech License, Now What? **Jim Neff, WJ4M**

There are myriads of articles about starting out in amateur radio. So, why not another one? I'll keep it short.

There are three main issues facing the new ham, "What equipment do I get? How Do I set it up?" and "What Do I say when I get on the air?"

The first two are pretty straightforward. If a new ham has been studying with an experienced ham, an "Elmer," then that person has likely made suggestions about equipment and will help with the setup.

Many start out with a hand-held FM rig. Costs can be relatively inexpensive with radios such as the Baofeng costing less than \$60. The menu system takes some studying but they offer free software to set up and store repeater frequencies in the memory. Costs can go up from there. Adding a mobile antenna with an adapter to the radio can put the new ham on the air from their car. The same goes for a base

station antenna. You don't need a lot of watts to work repeaters. You do need good antennas. Most hand-held radio manufacturers sell adapters to convert the handheld antenna connection to accept a longer piece of coax attached to a larger antenna.

If the budget permits, there are a number of higher-power mobile radios that will give good service. Buying used will save money, but make sure you buy from a reputable person and get a demonstration of the radio on the air if possible to make sure it works as it should.

Unless you are experienced at things electronic, it is good to enlist the help of an experienced ham to set up your new equipment. Mobile rigs bring challenges to find suitable power to run them, and antennas that can be used in a car or from the house.

So the new ham has a radio, and antenna sufficient to reach a favorite repeater. What do you say on the air? The FCC requires a station to identify at the start of transmission and at the end, and 10 minute intervals in between. Otherwise, just listen, listen, and then talk. Hopefully the new ham has a friend or Elmer with whom they can chat and get used to talking on the radio. There is quite a bit of activity on 146.52 simplex in our area.

When I was first licensed, what to say was easy. I could only use Morse code. A QSO consisted of signal report, name, location, radio, antenna type and height and maybe weather. At 5 words per minute, that took up a lot of time. "Rag chewing" came later. That's it for now, get a license, get a radio and get on the air.

The next meeting, August 10, 2023, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602 .

SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB

PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
8	R		N5IUT		San Antonio, TX		August 2023
TO							

Hello South Texas,

I grew up in San Antonio, so I'm no stranger to the heat. Yet, the intensity of the heat in recent months has been almost unbearable. Even during events like Radio Fiesta and Field Day, it was hot, but it pales in comparison to now. I urge everyone to prioritize safety and stay hydrated!

At SARC, safety is our top priority, especially for events like Field Day. Considering this, we'll be introducing a new role: the Safety Officer. This individual will oversee the safety and security measures of Field Day, ensuring we adhere to the stipulations outlined in the Field Day rules. It is also worth 100 points to our score!

Over the years, antenna safety primarily focused on trip hazards due to wires, feedlines, ropes, and other obstructions, especially in the dark. As a club with a strong focus on technology and education, radio frequency energy safety is also on our radar.

The Safety Officer will, among other responsibilities, determine the controlled and uncontrolled safe distances from all antennas. This ensures a safe environment for all attendees and helps us remain compliant with current rules and regulations. As a reminder, every Radio Operator should be familiar with how to calculate these distances to comply with existing standards.

Stay Safe,

73

Paul Guido, N5IUT

P.S. My Elmer once told me that San Antonio had four seasons, Fall, Spring, Summer, and August.

Bexar Wire

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The due date for articles is the **Monday** before the first **Thursday** of the month

San Antonio Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

7:00 p. m., June 13, 2023

Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd., San Antonio, TX 78216

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm//Pledge of Allegiance//Introductions

Presentation – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS: SWR & Antenna Tuners. The presentation will be posted to the club's website.

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

There being no changes, additions, or deletions, minutes were approved without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President – Paul Guido, N5IUT – Texas Water Safari: 156-mile canoe trip that uses hams to provide support occurred recently. More details available in the club newsletter. The w5sc.org domain will soon be transferred from private ownership to club ownership.

Vice President – Lloyd Swartz, KF5ZHW – No report.

Secretary – Jack Bannin N5JLB – Minutes from club meetings can be found at the w5sc.org website, in the Newsletters section.

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS – There were no physical or virtue meetings of the Board since last month so there is nothing to report. BOD meeting scheduled for 7 PM on 3 August, 2023 via Zoom.

Treasurer – Jon April KI5CSK – Club's financial status detailed.

Education and Training – David Finell, N7LRY – No report.

Emergency Communications – JC Smith N5RXS – No report.

Membership – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ – As of DATE: 7/11/23

Paid 152	New Members for 2023		
Free / Mil 7	First	Last	Call
Family Members 21	Royce "RB"	Bell	KX7Q
ARRL Members 107	Will	Norton	KJ5AEG
Total membership 185	Brett	Scantlin	
	Deric	Adam	KI5IJB
	Joseph	McCormick III	K5JYQ
	Stephen	Norris	K5ZP
	Clifford	Jager	W5PIX
	Lloyd	Stewart	KI5AYP
	Kenneth	Fitch	KI5BOQ
	Kleber	Siqueira	

Picked up 7 new members from raffle promotion.

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter distributed on July 12, 2023. Let him know if you have a topic you would like to see covered in the newsletter or material to contribute.

Webmaster – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ –

1. Web Site-
 - a. Posted newsletters.
 - b. Updated Radio Fiesta pages.
 - c. Added Baofeng direct purchase link.
 - d. Plans for fox hunt antenna.
 - e. Link to CHIRP program software.
 - f. Link to local frequencies image file for CHIRP program & csv file that can be modified and uploaded to CHIRP.
2. Groups.io – Club’s primary method of mass communication
 - a. Updated membership list
 - b. Updated calendar
3. Mail chimp- Meeting notice
4. Twitter
5. Facebook -Meeting notice

POTA - Jon April KI5CSK – No report.

Field Day – Made about 300 contacts. More details to be presented at the August 2023 meeting.

Fox Hunt – Travis Few – No report.

Finance and Review – No report.

JOTA – John Douglas W5NZK – No report.

Centennial Committee – Tom O’Brien AB5XZ – No report.

Radio Fiesta – Aubrey Mason – Lower participation than we had in past years. Donation allowed some tailgaters to sell their wares inside, out of the heat. Leftover door prizes awarded by random draw to Radio Fiesta volunteers, volunteers recognized with certificates of appreciation.

VE Team – Benny Martinez, NU5P – Picked up 3 new members from Field Day

Silent Key Committee – Rodney Brown, AA5RB – Summarized volume of sales of donated equipment. Inventory list of items for sale is available for members to peruse.

Monthly Activities – Travis Few, N9EOD – No report.

Executive – No report.

Election Committee – Paul Guido, N5IUT – No report.

Scholarship Committee: Jon April – No updates.

Old Business (Motions carried over from previous meetings) – None

New Business – None

Announcements: Within the next month, Aubrey Mason’s spouse will be able to print plastic nametags, with discounts for club members.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:35 PM

Your Boad of Directors

By
Harold C. Fleischer, III, AE5AS
Chairman, Board of Directors
San Antonio Radio Club

The Sam Antonio Radio Club (SARC) is not just a bunch of hams who get together from time to time to eat BBQ and maybe do other things together. SARC is a non-profit corporation registered with the Texas Secretary of State. SARC has a Constitution and By-Laws that have to stand scrutiny when filing with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) of the Federal Government. Thanks to Bill Craft, KD2HIQ, Director of SARC, SARC is now a 501c(3) with the IRS. We have been on file with the Texas State Comptroller’s Office for years as non-profit. A *club* cannot get a bank account unless they are a legal, registered non-profit so being a legal entity is not optional.

The Board of Directors of SARC consists of the four elected officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) each on a one-year term, five elected directors each on a staggered five-year term, and a Chairman, normally the previous President. (There are provisions for how to appoint replacements when necessary.) As a

group, your Board of Directors is responsible for policy decisions, procedural decisions, and budget. The Executive Committee – the four elected officers – put together and recommend a budget to the Board of Directors. Typically, the President will bring policy matters to the Board of Directors when it involves significant changes in policy and procedures. Generally, the Chairman and five elected Directors rather act semi-retired and leave things up to the President, the other officers, committee chairpersons, and members to do, although four of the Directors are committee chairpersons (Emergency Communications, Membership, Silent Key, and Volunteer Examination). On a day-to-day basis, the decider needs to be one person, the President, with help from the other officers, committee chairpersons, and members.

The SARC Constitution and By-Laws requires the Board of Directors to meet twice a year. Every year, it meets in the first week of the fiscal year, currently January, to study the budget recommendations of the Executive Committee and then decide what the budget will be. After that, the Board is pretty passive on budget. It is up to the President, other officers, and committee chairpersons to spend money on the approved items at the right time of the year and to earn

money. The Board does not approve individual purchases. After that, the Chairman has to look for a reason to have a second meeting. Often, a budget review after Radio Fiesta and Field Day when most income and expenses associated with those activities are done is scheduled for August. However, some years the Board has to meet in person or via Zoom for unanticipated opportunities or problems. The Board also conducts email ballots on some issues that are expected to be non-controversial.

From an accountability perspective, committee members are responsible to their chairpersons; chairpersons, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are responsible to the President; the President is responsible to the Board of Directors; and the Board of Directors is accountable to the SARC members. The Board wants to be a good steward of SARC's monies, and it wants to sponsor activities that help its members, e. g., Ham related presentations at meetings, Radio Fiesta, Field Day, license education, license testing, Silent Key, Scholarship, and, more recently, Fox Hunts, Civil Air Patrol balloons, and Parks On The Air. After all, SARC does not exist to sit on its money. It exists to raise and spend money on ham activities that furthers the amateur radio service.

Your Board of Directors did conduct a Zoom meeting on August 3, 2023 that went for 3 hours and 20 minutes. Normally, meetings are shorter. We have had some shorter than 5 minutes. Some things from this meeting that I wish to share with you:

1. Budget – We are on track for 2023. We are in the black and, provided we sell about 200 more tickets for the raffle fund raiser for the Robert Rodriguez K5AUW Scholarship Fund, we will still be in the black at the end of the year. No one has really overspent. Rodney Brown, AA5RB, has sold more SK equipment than anticipated so he is over budget.
2. Radio Fiesta 2023 After Action Review – Aubrey Mason, WA6DMI, led us as Chairperson to a success. He was within \$3 of his income objective and underran his expense budget. Consequently, more was made than budgeted. He made more than last year. There is a table sales problem and an attendance problem. We made money because the prices were higher. We need to do more on table sales and attendance. We know that the lack of a major new equipment vendor is hurting us. The dates for next year are July 19-20, 2023, and it will be at the Schertz Convention Center.
3. Field Day 2023 After Action Review – Jon April, KI5CSK, as Chairperson led a very successful Field Day. The relationship with the City of Shavano Park is strong. The number of people attending was significantly up so much so that we need to have more Blanco BBQ and breakfast tacos next year. We also need to do a better job on greeting people, answering questions, and getting them on the air.
4. It was decided that some Field Day equipment, e. g., tent, old desktop computers, 5K generators, etc. were no longer needed given our strong relationships with the City of Shavano Park so the Field Day Committee will be passing this equipment to the SK Committee to sell.
5. Rodney Brown, AA5RB, Chairperson, SK Committee, has been contacted by someone who wants to donate land to SARC. Some digging that could be considered due diligence was done. The Board decided to authorize the President to form a committee to do due diligence, handle the transfer including spending up to \$2,000 on legal and other fees, and then sell the property.
6. The Board decided by unanimous vote to modify the conditions on the Cray Lester K5MUG SK Technician Fund to allow the VE Committee to award by lottery one hand transceiver to a Technician at each test session even if it is not after a Technician Class inasmuch as Rodney Brown AA5RB has already sold a lot of Cray K5MUG donated equipment for over \$3,000.
7. The Board reviewed the dues increase by ARRL and decided by

funds, then upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee when it comes to budget any of them can be addressed. The Board really wants to remember that no one is in amateur radio to do administration, managerial tasks, or accounting. We and everyone else are in it for the enjoyment of those aspects of amateur radio in which we are interested.

In the event you have any questions about the Board of Directors or wonder whether some issue should be referred to the Board of Directors, please forget my byline at the top and talk to the President, Paul Guido, N5IUT. Oh, and buy a Robert Rodriguez K5AUW Scholarship Fund raffle ticket or two.

Dear ARRL members,

sponded (you can view the survey results here). We know from the survey results that most of you will find the new rate reasonable, or even ask why we didn't set it higher. We also know that some may find the rate is too high. As I've shared with many of you during my visits at hamfests and conventions, each of us has a responsibility to be active participants, and to support ARRL if we want to increase our ranks and ensure a lasting legacy for amateur radio's future. You told us that you value ARRL's advocacy efforts, including spectrum defense, standing up to regulators and policymakers, and our work in other areas that defend, promote, and grow amateur radio - including STEM outreach to schools, teachers, and youth. **There is no other organization that is working harder to advance a vision that allows any citizen to explore, develop, and practice radio communications and radio technology.**

Your feedback showed us the many benefits, services, and programs you use - from Logbook of The World, to the work done by the ARRL Lab to test equipment for product reviews. While our magazines topped the list of benefits, many of you also shared that your reading preferences have changed. Some of you prefer print, and increasingly members prefer digital. As a result, for those who prefer print, you will be able to subscribe to *QST* and/or *On the Air* magazine. Again,

To help us make this decision, we invited every ARRL member to participate in a survey in May. Over 20,000 members re-

advertisers continue to support it? They have their own digital advertising. A print version will be offered at increased cost to the member. Why? If there are fewer subscribers, can ARRL sustain the print version? The question for members remains, is the total cost worth it?

My other hobby is flying radio controlled model airplanes. That hobby is affected not only by the FCC, but also by the Federal Aviation Administration. The lobbying activity for model aviation is the Academy of Model Aeronautics, or AMA. They provide services similar to ARRL. Membership in the AMA is \$85 a year, which includes a monthly print publication, Model Aviation. Like QST, it is supported by member dues and advertising. The association provides other services. General membership facts are summarized below:

AMA Full Membership

- Age 19-65 - \$85
- 65 & over - \$75
- Under 19 (as of July 1st) - \$15
- Additional adult family members - \$45 each
- Benefits for membership types listed above:
 - \$2,500,000 personal liability insurance coverage
 - \$25,000 Medical Coverage-AD&D Policy (\$10,000 Death Benefit)
 - \$1,000 Fire, Theft, and Vandalism coverage
 - Model Aviation monthly magazine
 - Access to members only section of website
 - Ability to fly at thousands of AMA chartered club sites with appropriate club membership
 - Toll free customer service – **1-800-I-Fly-AMA (435-9262)**
 - Always comply with the [AMA Safety Code](#).

As you can see by the above, the list of member services is keyed to the needs of the hobby. Like ARRL, one of the most valuable services, in addition to the insurance, is the academy's interface with the government. Recent FAA rulings have threatened to put an end to the hobby by requiring remote identification devices that would be prohibitively expensive. Mostly it is aimed at drones, but they consider the model airplanes to be drones, and the same as full-scale airplanes for regulatory purposes. AMA intervention has minimized the impact on the hobby as much as possible and it looks like it will survive. Money talks and the hitherto ignored air between ground and 400 feet that was the unrestricted realm of model airplane flying is now worth something to the government what with drone delivery services and all. But that is another issue.

The ARRL provides a similar service when it comes to defending our frequency spectrum. It is continually under attack. That is evidenced by the recent effort by commercial interests to put high-powered digital transmission devices adjacent to the 20 meter amateur band, threatening to swamp our signals. Think super "Russian woodpecker." The ARRL is working to head that off as they have done for other threats to remove valuable spectrum from exclusive amateur use. Without radio spectrum in which to operate, we have no hobby nor service. That alone is worth the annual price, just to have someone to speak up for amateur radio in a national forum.

The National Rifle Association, or NRA, charges \$45 a year for membership and that includes a printed magazine, also heavily subsidized by advertising. They give modest discounts for multi-year renewals. Like ARRL, the NRA has found it necessary to increase dues periodically.

Does the ARRL membership cost too much? That is an individual decision. With gas prices the way they are, the annual dues will be about what it costs to fill up a big pickup's gas tank or dinner at a nice place and a movie with the first lady. Compared to other hobby associations, the new cost is not too far out of line.

I agree with some suggestions that the ARRL should consider senior discounts. As you can see, the AMA only gives a \$10 discount. While I can't disagree with the decision of the SARC board to stop recommending ARRL membership, I do believe membership is a good thing to encourage. If amateurs are not happy with the way things are managed at ARRL HQ, then there is a way to change it. Vote in different officers or become an officer yourself.



Volunteer Examiners at Work



No report this month



SARC has had a Groups.io. Its name is saradioclub.

If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

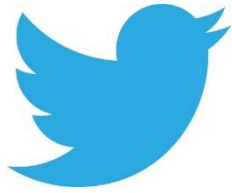
Several members have asked where are the notices, schedules and codes for Zoom meetings?

1. The groups.io calendar has a schedule of Zoom meetings and access codes.
2. The calendar can be accessed directly from the club web site <https://w5sc.org/events-calendar/> NOTE: it is the same groups.io calendar.

The saradioclub Group.io is being used to publicize SARC business meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes. Members of the saradioclub Group.io can and have asked each other technical questions or sought assistance.

The saradioclub Group.io is a closed group. To become a member, go to saradioclub.groups.io. (You may need to have a Groups.io account.) You will then need to select *Apply for membership in this group*. This generates a message. SARC members can expect approval to join the saradioclub Group.io in probably less than 24 hours.

SARC Tweets



Reminder: there are two active Twitter accounts for the San Antonio Radio Club. They are @SARadioClub and @ARadioFiesta.

The @SARadioClub is being used to publicize SARC meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes.

When work again commences the @ARadioFiesta will be used.

SARC members are encouraged to follow both Twitter accounts.

SARC Facebook



There is a San Antonio Radio Club – SARC (@saradioclub) Facebook Page.

The newsletter editor is making posts about SARC meetings and other activities. Any Officer, Committee Chairperson, or member who believes that they have information that should be posted to this page should contact the newsletter editor using the contact information for the newsletter editor on page 2 of this newsletter.

SARC members are encouraged to follow this Facebook Pa

SARC SLACK



There is a San Antonio Radio Club Slack team – w5sc.slack.com.

Slack teams are meant to foster communication between team members. Paul Guido, N5IUT, has established the w5sc.slack.com team for SARC. He has also established some channels. Think of the channels as topical areas.

To join send an email to Paul Guido, N5IUT, at radioteacher@gmail.com. In actuality, any team member already a part of the w5sc.slack.com can invite you, but Paul is known to be on it.

JOTA

Club members participated in JOTA and JOTI the largest Scouting event in the world at McGimsey Scout Park with the Alamo Area BSA on Saturday October 16, 2022. Volunteers set up several stations including mobile installations and allowed scouts to contact stations as far away as England. There will be a JOTA 2023.

Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, contact:
David Finell, N7LRY
Instructor

SARC Meeting Dates for 2023

January 12, 2023
February 9, 2023
March 9, 2023
April 13, 2023
May 11, 2023
June 8, 2023
July 13, 2023
August 10, 2023
September 14, 2023
October 12, 2023
November 9, 2022
December – No meeting

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: Bill Craft KD2HIQ
Billc851@gmail.com
210-233-8863

Radio Fiesta 2024

Radio Fiesta 2023 was a success. The venue will not be available in June next year, but watch this page for information about Radio Fiesta 2024.

License Testing Dates for 2023

Next date: Aug 26, 2023 12-2pm-
Leon Valley Public Library,
6425 Evers RD
Leon Valley, TX 78238

Please pre-register at hamtest@w5sc.org
SARC does all of its licensing testing as a part of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization so all of the Volunteer Examiners in SARC are duly authorized Volunteer Examiners of ARRL's VEC.

Emergency Communications

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact:
JC Smith N5RXS

Field Day 2023

Field Day exercise, June 24 – 25 was at the City of Shavano Park city hall for the twentieth year. *Where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio problem.* Start thinking about Field Day 2024!.